

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00
FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 HA-05 CA-01
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/166 W

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2956
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0183

GENEVA PASS UNDRO

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: EAID, GR
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITREP NO. 10

REF: THESSALONIKI 0178

1. TWO TREMORS AT NOON YESTERDAY, JUNE 29,
AT A STRENGTH OF 3.5 ARE CERTAIN TO
DISCOURAGE THESSALONIANS FROM RETURNING SOON TO
THEIR HOMES. HOWEVER, CITY DISPLAYS NORMAL AMOUNT
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OF ACTIVITY FROM 0900 TO 1400 AS SHOPS AND CARS
FILL THE CITY AND AS TWO THIRDS OF BUSINESSES
REMAIN OPEN. DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE DAY
THE CITY BECOMES EMPTY UNTIL IT APPEARS TO BE
NEARLY DESERTED BY MIDNIGHT. THE ARMY IS IN MUCH
EVIDENCE DISTRIBUTING FOOD, OPERATING MEDICAL
STATIONS, OVERSEEING CAMP CITIES AND OPERATING HEAVY

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE CITY'S CHURCHES ARE ALSO PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN DISTRIBUTING FOOD AND GIVING OTHER AID AT PARISH CHURCHES. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF HOARDING. HOWEVER, CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND OTHER WORKERS IN GREAT DEMAND DUE TO EARTHQUAKE ARE CHARGING EXHORBITANT FEES, AND FOOD PRICES IN SOME OUTLYING AREAS HAVE RISEN SHARPLY. RENTS ARE ALSO SKYROCKETING IN AREAS OUTSIDE CITY. MEANWHILE, THE ARMY IS DESTROYING BUILDINGS BEYOND REPAIR. FIRST ROUGH ESTIMATES BY OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT ABOUT 5,000 FAMILIES ARE HOMELESS AS A RESULT OF THE QUAKE. NUMEROUS COMMITTEES ARE MEETING TO DISCUSS AID TO THE HOMELESS AND TO THOSE WITH DAMAGED HOUSES AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE HELP TO BUSINESSES WHICH HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMICALLY. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WHO VISITED CAMP SITES, HOSPITALS, AND DAMAGED SECTIONS OF THE CITY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, WILL CHAIR SEVERAL MEETINGS TODAY TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES.

2. AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY INSPECTED DAMAGE DONE TO CONGEN AND MADE TOUR OF THE CITY TO LOOK AT DAMAGED PARTS. WE ARE RECEIVING A NUMBER OF TENTS FROM U.S. ARMY FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. CONSULATE GENERAL
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IS STILL ASSISTING AMERICANS GETTING IN TOUCH WITH RELATIVES, MANY OF WHOM HAD FLED THE CITY. DURING LAST 48 HOURS THERE ARE NO NEW REPORTS OF ANY CASUALTIES.

3. THE THREE USGS SEISMOLOGISTS WHO ARRIVED ON TUESDAY, JUNE 27, ARE CONTINUING THEIR STUDIES AND HAVE DECLINED TO ANSWER PRESS QUERIES CONCERNING ANY COMMENTS THEY MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE RECENT SERIES OF TREMORS HERE.
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